



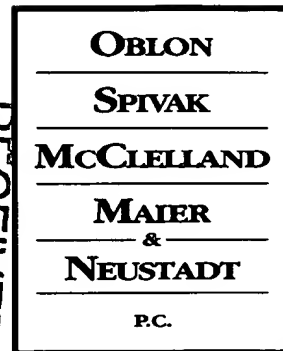
Docket No.: 196726US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JUL 22 2003

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/686,997

Applicants: Olivier DE LACHARRIERE, et al.

Filing Date: October 12, 2000

For: USE OF DHEA OR PRECURSORS OR METABOLIC
DERIVATIVES THEREOF AS A DEPIGMENTING
AGENT

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: WANG, S.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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DOCKET NO.: 196726US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1630/2900
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IN RE APPLICATION OF: : GROUP ART UNIT: 1630/2900
OLIVIER DE LACHARRIERE ET AL :
SERIAL NO.: 09/686,997 : EXAMINER: WANG, S.
FILED: OCTOBER 12, 2000 :
FOR: USE OF DHEA OR PRECURSORS OR METABOLIC DERIVATIVES THEREOF
AS A DEPIGMENTING AGENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated July 2, 2003, Applicants elect Group II, Claims 12, 13, 16-24, and 27-33 "drawn to a method of depigmentation and/or bleaching of skin wherein the treated skin does not have particular pigmentation marks." In addition, Applicants elect DHEA.

REMARKS

Applicants disagree that, at this point in prosecution, it is proper to restrict the claims and require an Election of Species. Nevertheless, Applicants have elected Group II, and DHEA. However, the claims pending in this case have been examined together in the past, and this collective treatment should continue herein.

In addition, the Office has not shown the inventions to be unrelated because it has not been established on the record by the Office that inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together. With regard to the Election of Species, the Office letter is completely devoid of